

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:33-2
(date entered 5-4-80)

1. Name: Westover

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 33/2

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 17
C-14

4. Address: 240 Mowbray Road, Silver Spring

5. Classification Summary

Category building
Ownership private
Public Acquisition N/A
Status occupied
Accessible no
Present use private residencePrevious Survey Recording M-NCPPC
Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of
Historical Sites
Federal State x County x Local

6. Date: before 1816

7. Original Owner: Evan Thomas
-- addition c. 1880 William Bradley

8. Apparent Condition

a. excellent b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This five bay, two-and-a-half story, Queen Anne style house sits on a slight rise facing southeast. The house has narrow white clapboarding at first level and white fishscale shingles above. There is a two story tower with a pyramidal roof at the east corner of the southeast elevation. This tower begins at second level. Here the roof is supported by four turned posts and enclosed by a railing of turned balusters. The southeast porch wraps around to northeast elevation. It has a shed roof with a paneled southeast cross gable and is supported by eight wooden posts which are connected by panels which create an arcade. There are one-over-one double-hung windows. On the northeast, southeast and southwest elevations there are two windows connected by a wooden arch set into the mansard roof. The mansard roof has fishscale and regular slate shingles.

10. Significance: This handsome Queen Anne farmhouse exemplifies the common practice of renovating houses in the current style as a family grows or becomes more prosperous.

Originally part of a tract called "Two Farms", and later part of an estate called "Westover", the land was inherited by Evan Thomas from his father Samuel in 1783. Evan had built a house by 1816 when he sold it to William Culver. By 1833 it was sold to Francis Valdenar, a farmer, County Commissioner and commissioner of the Montgomery Silk Company, as well as a state inspector of tobacco. In 1870, Valdenar was forced to sell Westover to meet his debts. Henry and Mary Bradley bought it in 1876 and gave it to their son William. He farmed it and built the elaborate Queen Anne addition. He and his wife Mary lived there until his death in 1897; then Mary stayed on until 1950 when she sold her large holding for subdivision, retaining life tenancy and several rights from the developer. The present owners purchased Westover in 1953.

11. Researcher and date researched: Donald M. Leavitt-7/79

Candy Reed
Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation
Approval

15. Acreage: 1.53 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 33/2
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Westover

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

240 Mowbray Road

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

X VICINITY OF Colesville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Richard E. Curtis

Telephone #: 384-6267

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 4142

CITY, TOWN

Colesville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20904

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 1989

Folio #: 382

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPIC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This five bay, two and a half story Queen Anne style house sits on a slight rise, facing southeast.

Built on fieldstone foundations, the house has narrow white clapboarding at the first level and white fishscale shingles at the second level. There is a two story tower with a pyramidal roof at the east corner of the southeast elevation. This tower begins at the second level where it is enclosed, and extends above the roof of the house. The pyramidal roof is supported by four turned posts and the walls of the house. The top level of the tower is enclosed by a railing of turned balusters.

The southeast porch wraps around to the northeast elevation. It has a shed roof with a cross gable and is supported by eight wooden posts connected by panels which create an arcade. The southeast door is glass and wooden paneled. There is a semi-enclosed porch with a shed roof on the northwest elevation. A glass and wooden paneled door opens on to this porch. There are two northwest additions for garages which face northeast.

There are one-over-one double-hung windows flanked by black wooden louvered shutters. On the southeast elevation, first level, the two windows extend down to the porch floor. On the northeast elevation, first and second levels, there are four-light diamond windows. At the third level there are two windows connected by a paneled arch and set into the mansard roof as a dormer window. There is a one story bay window on the southwest elevation. At the third level of the southwest and northeast elevations there are two windows connected by a paneled arch and set into the mansard roof as a dormer window.

The house has a mansard roof with fishscale and regular shingles.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Local History	

SPECIFIC DATES before 1816

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It was common practice in Montgomery County for a farmer to make additions to his house as his family grew or he became more prosperous. Westover/Valdenar House, growing from a small frame section to a large turreted Queen Anne addition, is an example of this.

Originally part of a tract called "Two Farms", the land surrounding the house became part of an estate called "Westover". Samuel Thomas left much of this land to his son Evan in 1783.¹ Evan, apparently not wishing to farm the land himself, agreed to lease Westover and other tracts to Thomas Brown for 99 years at a rent of 72 pounds a year. However, after four years Brown was released of this obligation.²

Evan eventually sold the land to William Culver in 1816, land that included improvements.³ This is the first reference to a house on the property. At his death William Culver left the farm to his sons John and Romulus. Being a resident of Kentucky, John had little use for an estate in Montgomery County, so he sold his undivided portion to Francis Valdenar (or Valdenier).⁴ Nine years later, in 1833, Romulus agreed to sell his portion of the farm to Valdenar.⁵

When not concerned with farm matters, Francis Valdenar was involved in county affairs. From 1842 to 1845, Valdenar was a County Commissioner. He was a commissioner of the Montgomery Silk Company, as well as a state inspector of tobacco. When Montgomery and Prince George's Counties disputed their boundaries, Valdenar was appointed to run, define, and draw the dividing lines between the two neighbors.

Valdenar's public service did little to help his finances. In 1870 he was forced to mortgage Westover⁶ and soon after found he could not meet the payments. The farm was sold off at public auction to Henry and Mary Bradley in 1876⁷ who in turn gave it to their son William.⁸

William farmed Westover and built the elaborate Queen Anne addition to the old house, an indication of his success at that endeavor. His wife Mary inherited everything in 1897 and in 1926 sold the house and the accompanying 311 3/4 acres to John Bliler.⁹ Mary Bradley also supplied Bliler with a mortgage on the property, and when he defaulted on the payments Westover was put up for sale at public auction. A poster for the event describes the house and the surrounding lands as they were in 1929:

"The property is improved by a three-story frame dwelling house containing hall, kitchen, and four rooms on the first

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

floor, five bedrooms and bath on second floor; there is a cellar under the whole house, a porch extends across the entire front and along one side of the house, there is also a back porch. The dwelling is heated by a hot water plant, there is running water in the house. The property is further improved by a large barn in which there is stable accommodations for 12 horses and 10 cows; two tenant houses and all other necessary out-buildings. An apple orchard containing about 50 trees is on the property as well as some small fruit."¹⁰

The highest bidder at the auction was Mary Bradley, and she returned to her house.

After World War II the suburban development came closer. In 1950 Mary Bradley sold her large holding in three parcels. Shrewd businesswoman that she was, Mary also set herself up for the rest of her life. Several unusual clauses were inserted into the deed. Although the house was sold, Mary had the right to remain in the house for the remainder of her life, while the developer paid all taxes, insurance, and assessments. The developer had to maintain a good road to the house, as well as supply a source of good drinking water. If any of parcel 2 were sold, Mary would receive half of the money, and she had the right to chop firewood on that parcel. However, the first clause and foremost clause inserted into the deed was that she received "the right to walk or ride with her dogs over any part of parcel 2".¹¹ Apparently the land was in such a prime location that the idiosyncrasies of an old lady were to be taken into consideration.

The present owners purchased Westover and the small lot surrounding it in 1953. Mary Bradley was still living at the time.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Wills of Montgomery County, Md. B/135 (10/14/1783).
- 2 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. Release N/240, (1/21/1807).
- 3 Ibid., Deed S/475 (2/5/1816).
- 4 Ibid., Deed X/225 (2/26/1824).
- 5 Ibid., Deed BS 4/362 (4/1/1833).
- 6 Ibid., Mortgage EBP 7/225 (3/13/1870).
- 7 Ibid., Deed EBP 15/380 (4/17/1876).
- 8 Ibid., Deed EBP 16/43 (11/3/1876).
- 9 Ibid., Deed 414/231 (11/15/1926).
- 10 Equity Records of Montgomery County, Md. Case #5146 (2/14/1929).
- 11 Land Records, Deed 1464/324 (11/30/1950).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land, Will, and Equity Records of Montgomery County, Md.

U.S. Census Records

Scharf, Thomas J. History of Western Maryland vol. 1, Philadelphia:

Lewis H. Everts, 1882.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.53 acres**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**Located on Mowbray Road approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile NW of Route 183**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald M. Leavitt

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1608287104

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: "Westover" or Valdenar House				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 240 Mowbray Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Richard E. Curtis				
STREET AND NUMBER: 240 Mowbray Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

M:33-2

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is built in two sections, the main part being a 19th century Victorian structure and the rear part, an older house, much altered. The rear section was a one room structure with an end chimney; later a room was added behind the chimney and a passage along the side of the house, to connect the two rooms. This building, of brick and frame, was probably two stories with a loft; it is presently two stories with a shed roof.

The main section of the house is two stories with a mansard roof. In the northeast corner, a three story tower breaks above the roofline; it has a pyramidal roof and an open porch at the third floor level. The sheathing on the first floor is narrowed clapboards, on the second floor shingles; the roof is covered with patterned slates. The frieze below the eaves consists of a series of blocks with vertical flutings. In plan, the house has four rooms arranged around a central chimney. The "tower" room is the entrance hall; the other three rooms are parlors with corner fireplaces.

A corncrib and a bankbarn stand northwest of the house. The corncrib sits on a stone foundation; the floors are supported by half-log sleepers. Wall posts are mortised, tenoned, and pegged into the sill; two intermediate rails are mortised, tenoned and pegged into the posts. The plate carries tie beams which are half-logs that project over the plate and have rafters mortised, tenoned, and pegged directly into them. The rafters are mortised, tenoned and pegged at the apex; collars are half-lapped and pegged over the rafters.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE
PERIOD (Check One)
SPEC
A.

M:33-2

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) rear wing-1700; main house, c. 1870

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:33-2

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian		DATE 27 Mar 74
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC		
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland	

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS